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**Statement on Minority Leader Sands' Amendment on
Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

*~Budget Language Does Not Stop Embryonic Stem Cell Research,
Only Prohibits State Funding for This Purpose~*

"This debate is about the use of state taxpayer dollars for funding of embryonic stem cell research, not prohibiting such research altogether," said Representative Anitere Flores (R-Miami). "There are extensive means of obtaining private funds for research using embryonic stem cells and there is no need to spend our limited state resources on this research when there are better avenues to achieve scientific advancements. In these challenging economic times, we should invest in research that shows the most promise."

"There are millions of Florida taxpayers who object to their tax dollars going to fund embryonic stem cell research. We should be responsibly investing Floridians' hard-earned tax dollars on research that has the most potential. In tight economic times, it is more important than ever that each tax dollar be used wisely," said Representative David Rivera (R-Miami).

"If people advocating for embryonic stem cell research practiced the bipartisan approach that they preach, then we would agree on innovative science that does not create ethical dilemmas. Unfortunately, this amendment is more about cutthroat politics than cutting edge science," said Majority Leader Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach).

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